

**Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Language Arts  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, September 20, 2003  
Holiday Inn, Stevens Point**

Members Present: Mari Sue Bethke, John Zbikowski, Jacki Martindale, Jim Vollmer, Joanne Katzmarek, Bill Schang, Tom Scott, Chris Van Hoof, Marti Matyska, Ruth Wood, Bonnie Frechette, and Trista Dauk

**I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

President Tom called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Bonnie moved to approve the agenda as printed; Mari Sue seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**II. Secretary's Report-Chris Van Hoof**

Bonnie moved to accept the May 1, 2003 minutes as printed. Jim seconded, and the motion carried.

**III. Treasurer's Report-Scott Oates**

Scott was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent a written report (see attached handout). After some discussion, Bonnie motioned to set the convention manager's stipend at \$1,000. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried, with one dissenting vote. Jacki motioned to set the executive treasurer's stipend at \$500. Bonnie seconded the motion; the motion carried. Due to concerns about a deficit spending budget, Bill Schang motioned that John chair a subcommittee, appointed by Tom, to explore budgeting possibilities and come back with a report/recommendation at the February board meeting. The motion carried.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. District Director Liaison-Mari Sue Bethke reported for Mary Graber**

- An updated list of district directors was passed around for corrections.
- If directors have information and/or activities that would be appropriate for inclusion in the Directors Handbook, please forward such things to Mary Graber.
- Marti handed out a list of districts that have helped over the past several years at the convention, and Mary G. needs to assign district(s) for the 2004 convention and let Marti and Jacki know which ones they are.

**B. Membership-Trista Dauk**

- Trista sent the revised membership form to Scott in May, and Judy Knoll has the new form. Trista and Judy discussed concerns about CESA districts and how to include that information with the membership mailing. In order to be economical, it was decided that a note of explanation directing people to the website map of districts would be better than sending a two or more page mailing.
- Trista will contact Judy to check the status of membership renewals. According to Tom, WCTELA ordered a new list of license holders from DPI (which would be current up to June, 2003), and the new membership forms may be delayed because we are waiting for the list from DPI.
- After discussion from district directors about not knowing who their members are, it was agreed that Tom will send the membership data base to Trista. Trista volunteered to look for ways in which this information could be maintained or altered to be more useful to directors, and she will relay that information to John so it can be considered during budget subcommittee discussions.

**C. Publicity-No report**

**D. Publications and Website**

- *WEJ*-Ruth Wood is still accepting material for the fall issue of *WEJ* until Nov. 1. She also needs volunteer schools for the spring issue, so she invited those on the board to volunteer their schools or others that may be good. David Beard, Ruth's colleague, is interested in archiving the *WEJ*.
- *Update*-The September issue is ready. There have been some concerns with printing that are being worked out, so you should expect to see the issue soon.
- Website-John hasn't been able to put up a traffic counter because of technical difficulties, but he is still working on it. The Call for Proposals for the 2004 Convention has been added to the site. The idea of adding convention presentation information to the website is ongoing. Including messages, such as those from Ellen Last, is being done. John mentioned that a policy to restrict or define what gets posted on site should be created. (see NCTE website for an example.) Tom directed John to create such a policy for review at the February board meeting. Ruth moved to authorize a \$30 addition to license renewal, which is coming up later this year, to allow for an email address in addition to our domain name. Bonnie seconded the motion, and it was approved.
- Video-Mari Sue reported that the group met with Ben Logan over the summer at his home. They have so much great footage that we are now looking at a video just of Ben Logan. In addition, Bill has the name of a woman

from Milwaukee that writes poetry about Milwaukee. He will be following up on this lead.

**E. Professional Issues-No report**

**F. Censorship/Intellectual Freedom-Katherine Conover**

Katherine Conover is looking for nominations for the Burris Award.

**G. Wisconsin Conference on English Leadership-No report**

**H. Wisconsin Conference on English Education-Debbie Kinder**

- The group met on Friday afternoon and discussed creating a strand for the convention. They will work in cooperation with Jacki and Marti on this project.
- The group is looking for information and concerns from cooperating teachers and schools concerning the preparation and performance of student teachers. If you have any information, send it to Ruth.

**I. Archivist-Helen Dale**

Helen Dale received a variety of information from Tom over the summer.

**V. Liaison Reports**

**A. DPI Update**

Gerhardt Fischer has been named as Ellen Last's replacement. He was invited to attend this meeting, but given the short notice was unable to attend. He is planning to attend the February board meeting, and in an email to Tom, he recognizes DPIs need for WCTELA's input on state level issues.

**B. Elections/Nominations**

Debbie Kinder is responsible for putting a slate together by the February board meeting. In addition, we are looking to fill district director vacancies in Districts 4, 9, 11, and 12. If you have any ideas, please forward them to Debbie.

**C. Awards-(See appointment under new business)**

**D. Foundations-no report**

**E. Wisconsin Communication Association**

Brenda Willuz is the WCA person working with Jacki and Marti on the convention.

**VI. Officer Reports**

**A. 2nd Vice President-Bill Schang**

Bill recommended having the 2005 convention in Madison as a one day convention. The board will act on the recommendation under new business. The potential dates are April 21-22 or April 28-29.

**B. 1st Vice President-Jacki Martindale**

Jacki reported that Dr. Richard Beach from the University of Minnesota has been contracted as the keynote speaker. The Calls for Proposals were handed out. They are also available online.

**C. President-Tom Scott**

No additional report

**VII. Old Business**

- The group reviewed the resolutions from the summer retreat (see attachment) and felt that we are already making good progress on many of them.
- Mari Sue moved to accept Bill's recommendation to have the 2005 convention in Madison for one day. Jim seconded the motion, and it was approved.
- Jim moved to approve the following statement of inclusion of people of color as a draft proposal for the annual meeting. Joanne seconded the motion, and it carried.

It is the policy of the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Language Arts that it demonstrate sensitivity to the concerns of people of color and they be represented on all Council-sponsored programs. People of color refers to historically underrepresented groups-African Americans, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Asian Americans, and Latinos. To this end, the following actions are to be undertaken **where possible**:

1. to include people of color on all appointed committees, task forces and other official groups;
2. to include people of color among the leadership of the above groups;
3. to include people of color among the nominees presented by each nominating committee;
4. to include people of color in WCTELA conventions and workshop sessions dealing with interests of people of color and using as leader or consultants practicing teachers of color from the levels of instruction concerned;
5. to include people of color in verbal and visual materials intended to represent or describe WCTELA;
6. to include people of color as targeted groups in any recruiting efforts.

In order to determine the effectiveness of this policy, the Executive Board will monitor the success.

The intent of this policy should not be construed to mean every subcommittee within a committee or

task force or other official group.

**VIII. New Business**

- Tom appointed Carol Conway-Gerhardt to be our awards coordinator. Jacki moved to endorse the appointment of Carol Conway-Gerhardt for a three year term. Bonnie seconded the motion, The motion carried.
- After some discussion about staging a convention with WSRA, the group decided to proceed with the possibility.
- Summer retreat dates and location—to be determined by Jacki
- Location of February Board meeting—to be determined

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05.